

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-28 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of April 13, 2004, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-15, 17-20, 22-24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by *Dulude et al.* in view of *Ohtsuki et al.*
- B.) Rejected claims 3, 16 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dulude et al.* as modified by *Ohtsuki et al.* and further in view of *Epstein*.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and addresses the Examiner's disposition as follows:

- A.) Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-15, 17-20, 22-24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by *Dulude et al.* in view of *Ohtsuki et al.*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Applicant's independent claim 1, 14 and 28 each claim a person authentication authority that receives a request for updating an issued electronic person authentication certificate from an entity that received the electronic person authentication certificate, makes a second electronic person authentication certificate in which an updated certificate expiration date or an updated certificate usage number limit is set according to the request, and then issues the second electronic person authentication certificate.

This is clearly unlike *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki*, which fails to disclose or suggest receiving a request for updating a certificate and then making and issuing a second certificate responsive to the request. As acknowledged by the Examiner, *Dulude* fails to disclose issuing a second certificate having an updated certificate expiration date or updated certificate usage number responsive to a request from an entity that received a certificate. Applicant respectfully submits that *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* still fails to disclose or suggest at least that claimed subject matter.

Ohtsuki teaches reading an expiration date stored in an EEPROM in a ticket and comparing the expiration date to the current date. (Col. 6, lines 12-17). If the calculated time difference between the ticket's expiration date and the current date is smaller than a predetermined time difference, then *Ohtsuki* notifies the user that the ticket is close to expiring. In one of *Ohtsuki's* embodiments, if the ticket is close to expiring, then a timer 207 is started. When the timer 207 times out, the user is notified of the pending expiration time. The timer 207 can be restarted again to remind the user again of the pending expiration. (Col. 6, lines 34-57).

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, *Ohtsuki* does not reset the expiration date of its ticket, but instead resets its reminder timer 207. The reminder timer 207 can presumably reset for many times, as long as the ticket has not expired.

Unlike Applicant's claims 1, 14 and 28, nowhere does *Ohtsuki* disclose or even suggest resetting the expiration date of its ticket. Instead, *Ohtsuki* merely gives the user a reminder that the ticket will expire when a reminder timer 207 expires, and allows the reminder timer 207 to be reset to give additional reminders. Therefore, unlike Applicant's claims 1, 14 and 28, *Ohtsuki* fails to disclose or even suggest issuing a second certificate having an updated certificate expiration date or updated certificate usage number responsive to a request from an entity that received a certificate. Nowhere does *Ohtsuki* even teach receiving a request from an entity to update its ticket expiration date. Accordingly, *Ohtsuki* could not disclose or suggest updating its ticket's expiration date responsive to such a request.

Further, as neither *Dulude* nor *Ohtsuki* even suggests issuing a second certificate responsive to a request, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has used impermissible hindsight (after having seen Applicant's disclosure) when arguing that *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* discloses or suggests issuing a second certificate responsive to a request.

Therefore, *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* still fails to disclose or suggest claims 1, 14 and 28.

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15, 17-20, and 22-24 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 14 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 14 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

B.) Rejection of claims 3, 16 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dulude et al.* as modified by *Ohtsuki et al.* and further in view of *Epstein*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

As described above, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 14, each as amended, each claim a person authentication authority that receives a request for updating an issued electronic person authentication certificate from an entity that received the electronic person authentication certificate, makes a second electronic person authentication certificate in which an updated certificate expiration date or an updated certificate usage number limit is set according to the request, and then issues the second electronic person authentication certificate.

Independent claims 25, 26 and 27 each also claim that subject matter described above with respect to claims 1 and 14.

Thus, claims 25, 26 and 27 are allowable over *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 14 are allowable over *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki*. Specifically, *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* fails to disclose or suggest issuing a second certificate having an updated certificate expiration date or updated certificate usage number responsive to a request from an entity that received a certificate.

Further, claims 1, 14, 25, 26 and 27 are allowable over *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* and further in view of *Epstein*. *Epstein* discloses a ticket that identifies a usage limit associated with each copy of a copy-protected material. If there are multiple copies of the same material, then a provider of the copies maintains a total-usage-measure for all the copies that have been "checked out" by patrons. When a checked-out copy is returned, then the total-usage measure indicates that another copy is available for check-out.

Thus, unlike Applicant's independent claims, *Epstein* does not teach issuing a second certificate having an updated certificate usage number responsive to a request from a recipient of a certificate. Instead, *Epstein* merely issues a ticket that is good for a number of uses, and does not issue a second ticket. In fact, *Epstein* fails to even discuss issuing a second ticket responsive to a request.

Therefore, *Dulude* in view of *Ohtsuki* and further in view of *Epstein* fails to disclose or even suggest claims 1, 14, 25, 26 and 27.

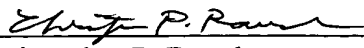
Claims 3 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 14 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 14 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

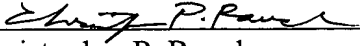
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-28 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch
SONNENSCHN, NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone 312/876-2606
Customer #26263
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 8, 2004.

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch